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NEW YORK TIMES
2 April 1984

Major Security Effort Is Planned To Head Off Terrorism at Games

By ROBERT LINDSEY
Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, April 1— The traditional hardware of Olympic competition includes the baton, the stopwatch, the balance beam and the starting block.

For the 1984 Summer Games, it also includes the following items that have been ordered by local police officials for the Olympics: six silencer-equipped submachine guns, 10 infrared night surveillance sensors for helicopters, 26 high-powered rifles, 5 sets of radio equipment to communicate underwater and one 4-foot-7-inch tall robot called "Felix" that shoots shotgun shells and helps defuse bombs.

The threat of bloodshed has hung heavily over the Olympics since Pales-

dozen communities in three counties, each with its own independent police department.

A security force of more than 17,000 people is being organized to protect the 10,000 or so athletes expected at the Summer Games.

Nothing Comparable in History

"In terms of a law enforcement challenge, there has probably been nothing comparable to it in history," Comdr. William Rathburn, Olympic security coordinator for the Los Angeles Police Department, says. "But even though it's complicated, and it's difficult, it's do-able."

Edgar N. Best, a former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent who is director of security for the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, recently said: "We're pleased with what we're doing, but you can never be sure you're doing everything; we don't want to be over confident that we've done everything there is to do."

With help from the Central Intelligence Agency and the F.B.I., police agencies here, some of whose members have been selected to receive unusual top secret intelligence clearances from the Federal Government, have for more than a year been seeking to

monitor dozens of groups in this country and abroad that are regarded as potential candidates to use terrorism at the Olympics.

The list, according to a security official, includes militant groups in this country such as the Weather Underground and Puerto Rican nationalists; terrorist groups in the Middle East, Central America, and Northern Ireland, and various ethnic groups that officials fear might try to use the Olympics as a forum to bring attention to their political grievances, such as the longstanding feud between Turks and Armenians and disputes between Serbo and Croatia factions.

Although it is doubtful the officials would acknowledge it even if they had, the security agents say that so far they have not received warnings of any specific plans for terrorist acts at the Games.

Race to the Games

Getting Ready for the Olympics

Second of three articles.

tine Liberation Organization terrorists killed 11 members of the Israeli team during the 1972 Summer Games in Munich.

But officials here assert that defending against terrorists has never been more difficult than it will be at this year's Games, when athletes will have to be transported over freeways to 23 widely scattered sites in more than a